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## **The Religious Education Association.**

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MUCH progress has been made in the growth and work of the Association during the first half of the second year. There are now nearly two thousand members, among them many of the leaders in education and in religion; also colleges, schools, and libraries; but the membership consists mainly of those capable, enlightened, official workers throughout the country who are improving the religious education of our time. All the religious denominations are represented, every state in the Union has members, and nearly every foreign country as well.

### **THE ANNUAL VOLUME OF ADDRESSES AND RECORDS.**

The volume of Proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention, which has been passing through the press during the months since that meeting, will be published on September 10. It contains ninety-six addresses, dealing specifically with many of the most important matters in religious and moral education. In comparison with the first volume published a year ago the new volume contains twice as much material; and the treatment advances from the general character, which belonged to the addresses of the first Convention, to the specific study of special practical problems.

"The Bible in Religious Experience" is discussed by Professor Thomas C. Hall, of Union Theological Seminary, New York, Bishop Alexander Mackay-Smith, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Edward Judson, Pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church. "Religious Education in the Home" is the striking and helpful subject of seven addresses by Dr. Ira Landrith, General Secretary of the R. E. A., Professor Richard G. Moulton, of the University of Chicago, Dr. Walter L. Hervey, Examiner of the Board of Education, New York, Professor C. T. Winchester, of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., Professor H. H. Horne, of Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., Miss Mary E. Hutcheson, Columbus, O., and Rev. Charles L. Fry, Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. "The Bible in Education" is most ably discussed in six addresses by Professor John E. McFadyen, of Knox College, Toronto, Miss Josephine L. Baldwin, Newark, N. J., Professor George E. Dawson, of the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy, Hartford, Conn., President W. H. P. Faunce, of Brown University, Providence, R. I., President Mary E. Woolley, of Mt. Holyoke College So. Hadley, Mass., and Bishop W. F. McDowell, of Chicago. A notable paper is President Charles Cuthbert Hall's "Annual Survey of Progress

in Religious and Moral Education." Another of the greatest and most useful contributions of the convention is that by Professor Francis G. Peabody, of Harvard University, on "The Bible's Recognition of the Social Needs and Relationships of Man."

Among the departmental addresses those upon the problems of the Sunday school will attract wide attention. "The Present Conditions in the Sunday School" were discussed by Rev. E. Morris Fergusson, of Trenton, N. J., Dr. W. C. Bitting, of New York city, Delbert S. Ullrick, of Berwyn, Ill., Dr. George R. Merrill, of Minneapolis, Minn., S. H. Williams, of Glastonbury, Conn., Rev. Lester Bradner, Providence, R. I., and Dr. A. E. Dunning, of Boston, Mass. "The Sunday-School Teacher" was the subject of addresses by Professor George W. Pease, of Hartford, Conn., and Dean J. B. Van Meter, of Baltimore, Md. "The Graded Curriculum" was most ably and clearly treated by Edward P. St. John, Superintendent of the New York State Sunday School Association, Professor E. D. Burton, of the University of Chicago, Dr. S. B. Haslett, of Worcester, Mass., and Dr. G. W. Mead, of Newport, R. I.

The relation of the public schools to religious and moral education is given probably the ablest discussion it has ever received, in the departmental papers by Dr. Ray Greene Huling, of Cambridge, Mass., Professor H. H. Horne, of Hanover, N. H., Dr. J. Remsen Bishop, of Cincinnati, O., Professor George E. Horr, of Newton Centre, Mass., Professor Levi Seeley, of Trenton, N. J., Superintendent John W. Carr, of Anderson, Ind., Dr. Walter L. Hervey, of New York, President Joseph Swain, of Swarthmore, Pa., Dr. C. N. McAllister, of New Haven, Conn., and Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, of Harrisburg, Pa.

In addition to the addresses here indicated, there are fifty-five more of equal length, on no less important subjects, and by speakers as eminent and authoritative as those already named.

The new volume will contain over six hundred pages. It goes free to all members of the Association. By others it can be purchased from the Executive Office of the Association, 153 La Salle Street, Chicago, for \$2. There will be a general consensus of opinion that this is the most important book in existence on the subject of religious and moral education.

#### OFFICERS' MEETINGS ON SEPTEMBER 22 IN ST. LOUIS.

An important series of meetings of the officers of the Association is being arranged for Thursday, September 22, at St. Louis. During the week September 19-25 occurs the International Congress of Arts and Science in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. A printed

program of the Congress can be secured by application to the officers of the Exposition. It will be unquestionably the most remarkable review of all knowledge past and present that has ever been made, and hundreds of the most eminent scholars of Germany, England, France, and America have been secured to read papers. This intellectual feast of the Exposition will bring together to an extraordinary degree the leaders in education and religion. The occasion therefore forms an opportune time for a gathering of the officers of the Association, similar to that held in Boston a year ago in connection with the National Educational Association. The plans for the next Annual Convention and for the work of the Association during the fall and winter will be arranged, and the Executive Committees of Departments will meet to work upon their several problems.

BIBLE SUNDAY WILL BE SEPTEMBER 25.

Bible Sunday, which was advocated by this Association last year and observed by thousands under the direct or indirect influence of the Association, has been set this year for Sunday, September 25. This is the day in the International Congress at St. Louis on which the subject of Religion is to be especially presented in two great sessions in the main assembly hall on the Exposition grounds. The time therefore is a particularly fitting one for the churches of America to turn their thought to the inauguration of Bible study for the year before them. The various agencies which promote the observance of a Bible Sunday, such as the American Bible Society, the Young Men's Christian Associations, the Epworth League, and others, are arranging to unite on September 25 for this purpose. The usefulness of observing such a day at the beginning of the school year must occur to anyone who thinks of it. It is the opportunity of the pastor and of the Sunday school to impress the value of Bible study upon all whom they reach, and to set in motion those organizations and activities for Bible study which should begin in the fall and continue during the winter. People well understand that the Bible has a larger message for the present generation than it is now able to give because of neglected, inadequate, or poorly guided study. Bible Sunday each autumn should therefore be the time of all the year when united, earnest, and intelligent effort should be made to correct these defective conditions.

AUTUMN CONFERENCES OF THE R. E. A.

Important plans are being made by the Executive Board for the holding of city and district conferences on Religious Education in many parts of the United States this fall. The spread of the ideas, principles, and stimulus of the Association cannot be accomplished rapidly enough by the Annual

Convention alone. It is highly desirable that the officers, members, and friends of the Association should arrange meetings in many places to consider the problems and plan ways of promoting religious education. A series of conferences held during the months of October and November in many cities will do much to bring together the workers in this field, and to increase thought and activity along these lines. In the theological seminaries also, and in the colleges, it will be useful to arrange conferences in order that the importance and nature of religious education may be seen.

#### LOCAL GUILDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Announcement was made in Official Bulletin No. 3 of the Association that the way was open for the formation of Local Guilds of the Religious Education Association in any and all localities. The outline of a constitution for such Guilds was also furnished in the Bulletin. Several such local organizations have already been made, and are grappling enthusiastically and wisely with the great problems. At Winsted, Conn.; at Swarthmore, Pa.; at Evanston, Ill.; at Winnetka, Ill.; at Ashland, O.; and in Chicago, Guilds of from twenty-five to one hundred members have been established, and have set out upon their work. It is clear that by means of such local organizations the work of the Association can be most effectively brought to all who desire its assistance and stimulus. The further organization of Guilds is desired by the Association. Officers and members everywhere are invited to localize and to promote the movement in this way.

#### THE NEXT ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Plans are well advanced for the third Annual Convention, which will be held in February, 1905. The exact date, and the place of meeting, will be determined by the Board of Directors on September 22 at St. Louis. The theme of the Convention will be: "The Aims of Religious Education." A carefully planned series of addresses, by some of the ablest men of the present generation, will show specifically what ought to be accomplished by this movement, and will discuss the best means to this end.